



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/815,915	04/01/2004	Freddie L. Stacy	SFL-10002/15	9429
25006	7590	09/09/2005		
GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRINKLE & CITKOWSKI, P.C PO BOX 7021 TROY, MI 48007-7021				
			EXAMINER AVERY, BRIDGET D	
			ART UNIT 3618	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 09/09/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/815,915

Applicant(s)

STACY, FREDDIE L.

Examiner

Bridget Avery

Art Unit

3618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/01/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/03/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 3, 6, 7, 14 and 15 are objected to because of the following informalities:
on line 1, "wherein" should be inserted after ",", in each claim. Appropriate correction is required.
2. Claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 are objected to because of the following informalities:
on line 1, "further comprising" should be inserted after ",", in each claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
4. Claim 7 recites the limitation "said pairs of interengaging portions" in line 1.
There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Art Unit: 3618

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 14, 15, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Evans (US Patent 1,030,170).

Evans teaches a collapsible sled similar to applicant's including:

- A first and second ski (b) positioned parallel to each other
- A plurality of crosswise extending members (l, m) interconnecting the first and second skis; the crosswise members (l, m) including interengaging portions and defining a support platform (A)
- The crosswise members (l, m) being converted between a first engaged and use position and a second disengaged and collapsed position in which the skis (b) are spaced more closely to each other, as taught in column 2, lines 59-61
- A support structure (vertical member c, horizontally extending member e) disposed between the crosswise extending members and each of the first and second skis (b), as taught in column 1, lines 33-51
- Re claims 6 and 7, see interengaging portions (k)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3618

6. Claims 4, 5, 8-10, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans ('170).

Evans teaches the features described above. Evans further teaches connector pins throughout Figures 1-4.

Evans lacks the teaching of separating a front section of the sled from the rear section. Evans lacks the teaching of a spring-loaded pin.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to permit separation of the front section of the sled from the rear section of the sled, since it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art. It would have been obvious to dispose connector pins between opposing subsection of the horizontally extending members to permit collapsing of the entire sled into a very small compass. With respect to applicant's claimed spring-loaded pin, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to use a spring-loaded pin in place of the brace taught by Evans, since the tension exerting brace is an equivalent structure known in the art. Re claims 12 and 13, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to construct the sled of steel material or impact resistant plastic, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use. In this case, one having ordinary skill in the art might select steel or impact resistant plastic for durability and to keep manufacturing cost low.

Art Unit: 3618

7. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans ('170) in view of Molodecki (US Patent 4,631,877).

Evans teaches the features described above.

Evans lacks the teaching of a carrying bag.

Molodecki teaches a carrying bag for a collapsible hut.

Based on the teachings of Molodecki, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to add a carrying bag to readily transport the sled in the collapsed condition.

8. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans ('170) in view of Molodecki (US Patent 4,631,877).

Evans teaches the features described above.

Evans lacks the teaching of a pull rope.

Robes, Jr. teaches a pull rope (49).

Based on the teachings of Robes, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to add a pull rope to permit easy transport of the sled from one place to another.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Reisinger shows a sledge.

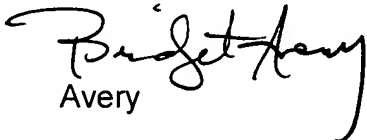
Albright shows a knockdown sled.

Essig shows a sled.

Mitchell shows a sleigh.

Conwell shows a folding sled.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Bridget Avery at telephone number 571-272-6691.


Avery

September 1, 2005



CHRISTOPHER P. ELLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600